

October 2008

Dear Westford Residents

Summer is a distant memory. Autumn is here and with it comes crisp air, colorful leaves, Halloween and the Westford Farmer's Market 2nd Annual Apple Pie Bake-Off! This year I will be a judge, and by the time you read this, I will be on the treadmill trying to reverse the damage! Fall also brings our Special Town Meeting, which is scheduled for Monday, October 20, at 7:30 p.m. at the Abbot School. I hope to see you all there as we have some very important business to attend to.

We have articles to supplement the FY09 budget, create a Capital Stabilization Fund (something we have been trying to start for awhile), renovate and construct an addition for the senior center, develop a replacement well at Country Road, install a water main to assist some of the residents affected by the perchlorate contamination, and seek funding to design a renovation and/or addition to the Town Hall. With several large capital projects on the warrant, this promises to be a lively night. Please come and exercise your civic duty and be an active participant in shaping Westford's future!

In addition to the town meeting, we are busily preparing budgets for next year. I plan to present my Fiscal Year 2010 budget message to the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee on October 14, 2008. As we all know, considerable fiscal restraint is necessary in order to continue to deliver the level of services our residents have come to expect yet remain within the confines of Proposition 2 ½. I can promise you we take our task very seriously and will be examining each department budget looking for ways to create efficiencies, streamline operations and generate revenue where appropriate as we move through the process.

Most of our town departments will complete their transition to the Millennium School during the month of October. Please drop by towards the end of the month and check out our new location. See you at town meeting!

Sincerely,
Jodi Ross
jross@westfordma.gov
www.westfordma.gov/tm

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Public Hearing

A Design Public Hearing will be held by MassHighway to discuss the proposed Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT), Phase 2A project, in the Towns of Acton, Carlisle and Westford, Massachusetts.

WHERE:

Acton Town Hall, Room 204
472 Main Street
Acton, MA 01720

WHEN:

**Wednesday, October 29,
2008 @ 7:00 PM**

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed BFRT Phase 2A project. All views and comments made at the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL:

The proposed project will extend from the end of the BFRT Phase 1 (Westford-Lowell Phase) and continue south through Westford, Carlisle and Acton for a total length of approximately 4.88 miles. The construction will include: a new variable width

(ranges from 10 to 12 feet) paved asphalt multi-use rail trail with 2-foot stabilized shoulders, an adjacent 6 foot stone dust trail (provided where feasible), trail pavement markings and signing, passively actuated flashing beacons at trail/roadway crossings, new roadway pavement markings and signing at trail crossings, construction of a pre-fabricated pedestrian bridge structure over Route 2A/119, rehabilitating six existing railroad bridges along the trail, constructing culverts, earthwork, landscaping and other items incidental to the construction of the rail trail.

For more information on the BFRT Public Hearing, [click here.](#)

Westford Public Library: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle

Look to the library to help you embrace the new “**Three R’s**” – **reduce, reuse and recycle!**

Downsizing?

Donate your used books to the Friends of the J. V. Fletcher Library, Inc. for a tax deduction and know your treasures will be recycled to a new owner. Look to our collection on pointers for de-cluttering, downsizing, and disposing.

Cutting back?

Reduce your magazine subscriptions and book purchases and instead borrow the holdings of public libraries statewide!

Planning a “staycation”?

Enjoy eighteen area museums, and explore the beaches and parks of the Mass. Department of Conservation and Recreation with the library's complimentary passes (compliments of the Friends, that is!).

Attempting to “do it yourself?”

Borrow books on deck-building, landscaping, painting, upholstery, and small business start-ups.

Looking for the best value?

See our consumer holdings for advice on your next big purchase. Public libraries are

all about economy of scale, regionalization and resource recycling – the library itself has cut back via a new energy management system, new cost-saving lighting and new efficient boilers. July set a record for the highest library circulation ever – with almost 37,000 items going out – come see what the excitement and the cost savings are all about.

Ellen Rainville,
Library Director

The J.V. Fletcher Library's new website launches on October 17. Visit www.westfordlibrary.org for updates.

Council on Aging: New Home for Adult Day Program

The Council on Aging (COA) has offered an Adult Supportive Day Program for the past seven (7) years. The purpose of the program was to provide elders with a social program in a safe "home away from home" environment. The Town allowed us to start this new initiative with a promise to make this program self-supporting. While this program benefited many, it was unable to reach its goal of becoming self sustaining.

With difficult financial times facing the Town, we were asked to dissolve the program. Because of our belief in the positive benefits such a program provides to our community, we sought an agency that could offer the same type of programming and which would meet the needs of our elders.

We are pleased to tell you that on September 2, the Roudenbush Community Center (RCC) opened a new

Adult Supportive Day Program referred to as "Roudenbush Adult Social Day Program." The Program Goals are:

- To provide members with interesting and fulfilling activities that promote dignity, self worth, confidence, socialization, and stimulation.
- To enrich the lives of those elders sharing their days with us by creating a special
- place where the environment is warm and inviting.
- To promote a comfortable atmosphere for elders to maintain independence, make new friends, and remain active.

The social day participant may be an isolated, frail, or homebound elder who may live alone, with family, or a

spouse. The clients enjoy socialization and the supportive environment. Families may need some supervision or assistance for their family member while they work outside the home. The Social Day Program can assist caregivers or their loved one in staying at home as long as possible, but with support.

They are located at the Westford Housing Authority, Felix Perrault Community Room, 65 Tadmuck Rd., and they are open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m... You may enroll for two to five days per week. Door to door transportation is provided.

For more information on this program, contact Katherine Pouliopoulos, RCC Executive Director at 978 692-5511 or Norma Antonetti at 978 692-0803.

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[You can also go online here.](#)

Westford Police: Scam Warning

The Westford Police Department would like to warn residents that there are several different scams and unlicensed contractors out there. These include pavers, roofers, painters, and people who pose as Town Workers to gain access to homes.

We encourage people to call the Westford Police at 978-692-2161 if they are suspicious of someone trying to gain access to their home through a potential scam.

We also want to remind people that Town Departments generally call

before sending employees who will be working inside your home.

These employees will always have some kind of official identification and may also wear a uniform and drive a town vehicle.

We encourage people to call the Westford Police at 978-692-2161 if they are suspicious of someone trying to gain access to their home through a potential scam.